

But he had since accompanied his ferocious Judge from place to place and associated himself with all the horrors of the reaction. It is to be hoped that he felt some shame in acting the part which fate and his councillors thrust upon him, as trapper and butcher of his confiding subjects. What wonder that the men whom he had deceived desperately sought to slay him? If the feeling about Richard had veered round, the feeling about his uncle had undergone a change equally complete. John of Gaunt had taken no part in the suppression of the rising in the South. He had been in Scotland during the horrors of July. He was the natural rival of his nephew, and the principal candidate for the Throne. The rebels of this forlorn hope in September announced that they would make the Duke King of England. This change of feeling was accelerated by rumours from the North that John of Gaunt had freed all the serfs on his vast estates.<sup>1</sup> The report perhaps had some basis in fact, for commutation of lordship service may have been almost complete on the lands of the House of Lancaster.

This was not the only disturbance of the peace that took place in September. The rebellion still simmered, and in places broke out with violence. On September 5, armed peasantry from the neighbouring villages seized Salisbury market-place in conjunction with rioters from among the townsfolk.<sup>2</sup> The unrest was largely due to the severities of those in authority. Desperation drove thousands into fresh rebellion, and fear prevented thousands from returning to peaceful avocations. The country could not resume its normal condition, for men would not return to their homes as long as death waited for them on the threshold. The Parliament that met at Westminster in November took measures to end this state of things. It passed an act of pardon to all rebels, with certain important exceptions. Grace was not extended to any who had killed the late Chancellor, Treasurer, and Chief Justice, nor to the inhabitants of Canterbury, Beverley, Scarborough, Cambridge, Bury St. Edmunds, and Bridge-water. A further list of two hundred and eighty-seven

» *C. R. R.* no. 482, Kent, Bex. 1.  
printed in vol. iv, *Arch. Kent.* \*O. JR.  
*B. t.* 492 Bex. 13 (Bex. 280, note 3).